

FIRST RECORD OF RIBBON FISH LARVA, *TRACHIPTERUS TRACHYPTERUS*, FROM THE EASTERN ADRIATIC. JAKOV DULCIC, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Set. I. Mestrovica 63, P.O. Box 500, 21000 Split, CROATIA.

RÉSUMÉ. - Une larve du poisson-ruban, *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789), a été capturée pour la première fois dans la Mer Adriatique orientale, à la station Stoncica ($43^{\circ}00'N$ - $16^{\circ}20'E$) le 21 mai 1994.

Key-words. - Trachipteridae, *Trachipterus trachipterus*, Larva, MED, East Adriatic, First record.

In 1994 a monthly sampling programme directed at hydrographic data and the plankton community was carried out in the Eastern Central Adriatic by the R.V. "Bios". Figure 1 shows the three locations where the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries has performed investigations for more than 40 years.

One trachipterid larva, identified as the ribbon fish, *Trachipterus trachipterus* (Gmelin, 1789) (Fig. 2) using the descriptions of Lo Bianco (1908) and Sparta (1956), was caught by Hensen net at location Stoncica on 21 May 1994 at $43^{\circ}00'N$, $16^{\circ}20'E$. The bottom depth at the station was 107 m and temperature and salinity at 75 m were $14.2^{\circ}C$ and 38.73‰ , respectively. After fixation in 4% seawater solution of formaldehyde, the standard length of the larva was 18.2 mm. This larva has: well-developed protrusible jaws, elongate first five rays in anterior dorsal fin and well-developed pelvic fins which are passing over the total length of larva, preanal length about 50% SL, pigment initially only on head and on lateral surface of anterior/dorsal gut (Fig. 2).

There is no previous records from the Eastern Adriatic, although nine larval surveys have been made in the Eastern Adriatic between 1952 and 1992.

The ribbon fish is a rare species in the Adriatic and between 1888 and 1980 only about 40 adult individuals were recorded in the Northern and Central Adriatic (Jardas, 1980). Jardas (1980)



Fig. 1. - Sampling stations in the central Adriatic. A: Kastelanski zaljev; B: Pelegrin; C: Stoncica.

reported that the higher frequency of this species along the Eastern Adriatic coast during spring and summer months is correlated with the spawning period. This larval record supports this suggestion. This record is in agreement with the larval records, during the period November-May, in the Straits of Messina (Sparta, 1956). Lo Bianco (1909) reported that the spawning period of ribbon fish is during the entire year.

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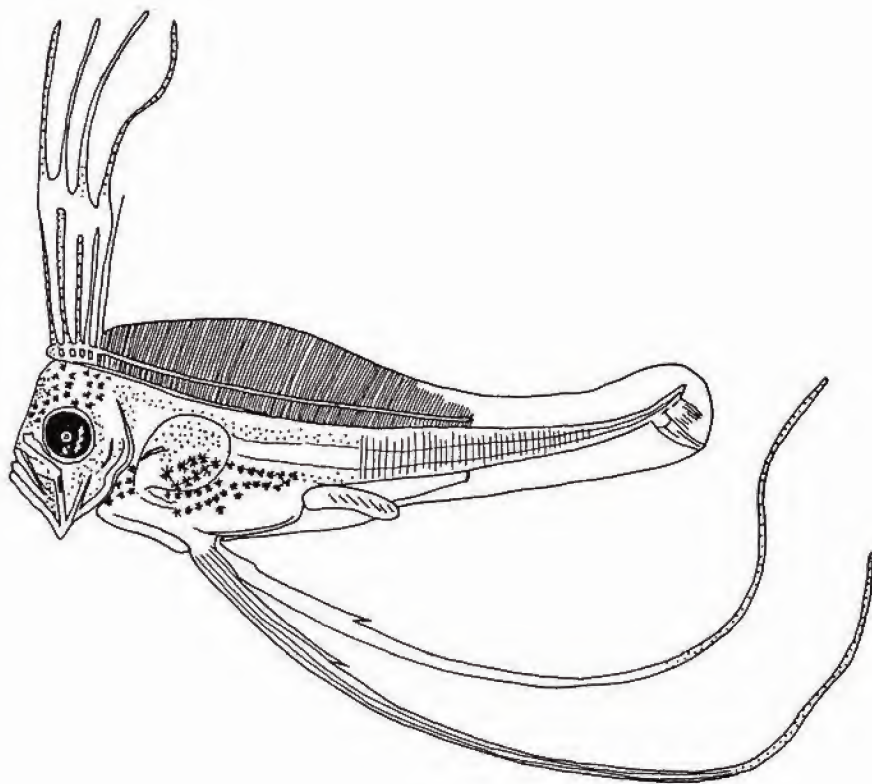


Fig. 2. - Larva of *Trachipterus trachipterus* caught at Stoncica (Eastern Adriatic).

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